

Grand Coulee-Bell

500-kV Transmission Line Project (Eastern Washington Reinforcement)

Bonneville Power Administration is committed to providing reliable power to the Northwest region. BPA is proposing to build new infrastructure projects to improve the distribution of power to meet existing and future power needs. The Grand-Coulee Bell project is needed to reliably move power from existing generation sources east of Spokane to the west. This is one of several critical projects BPA has planned to solve power reliability problems in the Northwest.

Project Description

The Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line project will replace approximately 84 miles of existing 115-kV wood pole transmission line with a new, higher capacity 500-kV steel lattice line. The transmission line corridor between the Grand Coulee and Bell substations currently contains two 115-kV transmission lines on two wood pole structures and three 230-kV transmission lines on two steel lattice structures. Together, the existing transmission lines can no longer reliably move power from generation sources east of Spokane to areas west of Spokane. BPA plans to replace the northern-most wood pole line.

The new 500-kV transmission line will connect from BPA's existing Bell substation in Spokane, Wash., to the Bureau of Reclamation's existing Grand Coulee Switchyard at Grand Coulee Dam. The new line will be located primarily on BPA's existing right of way. The project will involve expanding Bell substation and developing Grand Coulee Switchyard within the fenced area.

The lines will:

- A) Allow BPA to continue to deliver power to where it is needed;
- B) Relieve current congestion on the transmission line corridor, maintain electrical system reliability, and provide for future needs; and
- C) Provide system flexibility and minimize costs to customers.

Working with the Community

In January and February 2002, BPA introduced the Grand Coulee-Bell project to the community and obtained public comments on the project. Public meetings were held in Grand Coulee, Davenport and Spokane, Wash.

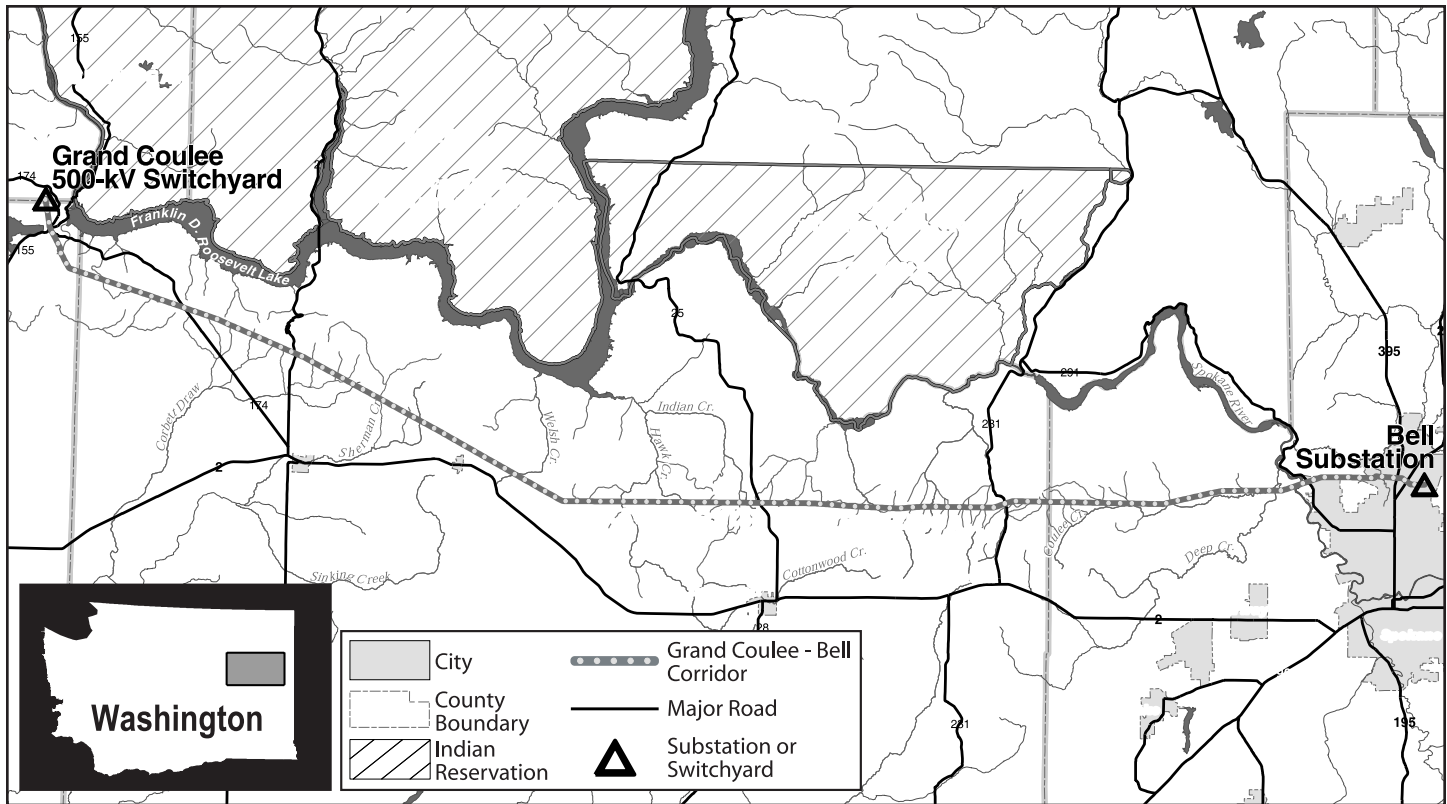
BPA also received comments in briefings with key constituents, by telephone, mail and e-mail. The comments focused on:

- Visual impact of new towers;
- Electric and magnetic fields (EMF);
- Potential impacts to farming practices;
- Double-circuit versus single-circuit structures; and
- Land use (crossing Riverside State Park, Whitworth College and residential areas).

Based on these comments, BPA added an additional alternative to consider in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The original proposal consisted of new single-circuit structures for the first 75 miles from Grand Coulee to Spokane, then larger double-circuit structures for the last nine miles through Spokane to Bell substation. BPA studied the additional

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This map shows the proposed route for a new 500-kV transmission line, primarily on existing right-of-way.

alternative of using single-circuit structures for most of the last nine miles to Bell substation. For the single-circuit alternative, the new 500-kV single-circuit structures will be approximately the same height as the existing 230-kV double-circuit structures.

As part of this project BPA consulted with affected tribes, conducted environmental studies and collected public comments. Community input is an integral part of the process, and BPA will seek comments throughout the project.

Environmental Planning

A draft Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for this project. As BPA designed the project, special attention was paid to minimizing disruption to people, habitat and farm production. Some key milestones are described below:

- **Scoping.** BPA identified possible issues and concerns on the project by conducting three public meetings and meeting with state and local governments, business organizations, environmental organizations and the media in January and February of 2002.
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** Environmental studies analyzed cultural, biological, land use and visual resources. Potential environmental impacts have been documented in the draft EIS and the document is available for public review. In

September 2002, Bonneville held four meetings in Coulee Dam, Davenport, and Spokane, Wash., to discuss the draft EIS. The comment period on the draft EIS closed September 23, 2002.

- **Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).**

The final EIS was released on December 6, 2002.

- **Decision.** The record of decision was released

January 10, 2003.

Funding and Schedule

BPA is funding project this project, which is estimated to cost \$175 million. Construction started in April 2003 and is scheduled to be completed November 2004.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact BPA Project Manager Mark Korsness toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or visit BPA's Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects. If you have real estate or easement questions or would like BPA to meet with you on site, please call Paula Campbell toll free at 1-877-417-9454.

